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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims according to the following replacement claim set:

1. (Currently Amended) A fishing apparatus, comprising:
a buoyant board-like support member having at least ~~one~~ a pair of opposing gripping aperture apertures or indentation indentions provided therein, the gripping aperture ~~apertures~~ apertures or indentation indentions each being suitably sized and shaped and oriented for hand gripping at or near respective opposing edges of the support member;
a fish container secured to the support member for holding fish; and
a first bait container secured to the support member for storing bait.
2. (Original) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member has a cleat mounted thereon for tethering to a user.
3. (Original) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member has a securing aperture therethrough for tethering to a user.
4. (Original) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member is filled with an expanded polystyrene material.
5. (Original) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member has a fluorescent outer surface.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Original) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member has four gripping indentations provided therein.
8. (Canceled)

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9. (Original) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member has four gripping apertures therethrough.
10. (Original) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a tether secured at or near one of its ends to the support member, the tether being adapted for being securing at or near the other of its ends to a user.
11. (Original) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member is equipped for measuring the length of a fish.
12. (Currently Amended) A fishing apparatus comprising:
a buoyant board-like support member;
a fish container secured to the support member for holding fish, the fish container being equipped with one or more apertures for passage of ambient water therethrough;
a first bait container secured to the support member for storing bait, the first bait container being equipped with one or more apertures for passage of ambient water therethrough; and
a first upright gear container secured to the support member and having a generally tubular shape for supporting elongated fishing gear.
13. (Previously presented) The fishing apparatus of claim 12, comprising a plurality of upright gear containers secured to the support member, each of the gear containers having a generally tubular shape for supporting elongated fishing gear.
14. (Original) The fishing apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a utility bar secured to the support member, the utility bar having a plurality of storage apertures therethrough for receiving fishing gear.

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15. (Previously presented) The fishing apparatus of claim 14, comprising at least three upright gear containers secured to the support member, and wherein the utility bar is connected across the three upright gear containers at an elevation above the upper surface of the support member.
16. (Previously presented) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member is equipped with at least one rudder for stability while fishing, the rudder having at least two flat sides.
17. (Original) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member has a fish-holding aperture sized and shaped to receive the fish container therethrough, whereby a portion of the fish container extends downwardly beneath the support member.
18. (Original) The fishing apparatus of claim 17, wherein the fish container is a generally tubular-shaped net that permits the submergence of fish disposed therein while fishing.
19. (Original) The fishing apparatus of claim 18, wherein the net has a mouth that is adjustable between an open configuration and a closed configuration.
20. (Original) The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member has a bait-holding aperture sized and shaped to receive the first bait container therethrough, whereby a portion of the first bait container extends downwardly beneath the support member.
21. (Original) The fishing apparatus of claim 20, wherein the first bait container is adapted for holding live bait.
22. (Original) The fishing apparatus of claim 20, wherein the first bait container is substantially cylindrical and has an openable lid.

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23. (Original) The fishing apparatus of claim 20, wherein the first bait container is made of plastic.

24. (Currently Amended) A fishing apparatus comprising:

a buoyant board-like support member;

a fish container secured to the support member for holding fish, the fish container being equipped with one or more apertures for passage of ambient water therethrough;

a first bait container secured to the support member for holding bait, the first bait container being equipped with one or more apertures for passage of ambient water therethrough; and

a second bait container secured to the support member.

25. (Previously presented) The fishing apparatus of claim 24, wherein:

the first bait container is adapted for holding live bait; and

the second bait container is adapted for holding artificial bait.

26. (Original) The fishing apparatus of claim 25, wherein the second bait container is secured to the upper surface of the support member and includes at least one plastic box having an openable lid and a plurality of bait-holding compartments.

27. (Original) The fishing apparatus of claim 25, wherein the second bait container is secured to the upper surface of the support member and includes a plurality of stacked plastic boxes each having an openable lid and a plurality of bait-holding compartments.

28. (Currently Amended) A fishing apparatus, comprising:

a buoyant board-like support member;

a fish container secured to the support member and adapted for holding live fish, the fish container

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being equipped with one or more apertures for passage of ambient water therethrough; and

a bait container secured to the support member and adapted for holding live bait, the bait container

being equipped with one or more apertures for passage of ambient water therethrough.